



Claims 1-44

Cancelled.

45. (Previously Presented) A ceramic material comprising a surface that has been treated by contacting the ceramic surface with a silane and heating for a sufficient time at a sufficient temperature to decrease the wettability of the ceramic surface by aqueous solutions.

46. (Previously Presented) The ceramic material according to claim 45, wherein the ceramic surface comprises alumina.

47. (Previously Presented) A ceramic article made from the ceramic material of claim 45.

48. (Previously Presented) The ceramic article of claim 47, which is selected from the group consisting of an IEF gel strip holder, a gel support, and a microarray plate.

49. (Previously Presented) A sample holder for chemical analysis, comprising a ceramic surface having a contact angle of greater than about 40° with an aqueous solution comprising about 6 to about 9.8 M urea.

50. (Previously Presented) The sample holder of claim 49, which is adapted to hold a gel strip for isoelectric focusing.

51. (Previously Presented) The sample holder of claim 49, which is adapted to hold an electrophoresis gel.

52. (Previously Presented) The sample holder of claim 49, which is a multiwell microarray plate.